The SDF loans were disbursed to the main steel producers for the purpose of modernization, research and development, rehabilitation, diversification, renewals and replacement of their steel plants.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

12.00 NOON

Leakage of question paper of Group 'D' Recruitment Examination

SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Recruitment Cell Group 'D' Examination has been cancelled in Northern Zone due to leakage of the question papers on Sunday i.e. 26th February, 2006;

(b) if so, the total number of candidates adversely affected;

(c) when this examination shall be held again; and

(d) the reasons for leakage of the question paper and who are responsible therefor and what action is being taken against them to prevent such leakages of question paper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) No, Sir. The examination has not been cancelled. The written examination was being conducted on three dates i.e. 12.2.2006, 26.2.2006 and 5.3.2006.

The first phase examination was successfully conducted in which 97,588 candidates appeared.

The second phase (out of three phases) of examination held on 26.2.2006 had to be cancelled due to leakage of question paper. The third phase of examination which was scheduled for 5.3.2006 had been deferred.

(b) 1,12,985 (One lakh twelve thousand nine hundred eighty five) candidates relating to second phase of examination who had appeared on 26.2.2006 were adversely affected.

(c) The fresh date for conduct of examination is yet to be decided. Investigations regarding leakage of question paper are being conducted by Lucknow police on an FIR (First Information Report) lodged by Special Task Force (STF), Lucknow who reported the leakage of paper and action will be taken on receipt of their report.

(d) The reasons of leakage of the question paper will be known only after the police enquiry is completed. On the basis of the police investigation, necessary action will be taken to plug the loopholes.

श्री अबू आसिम आजमी: सर, मैं मंत्री जी का धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूं कि इन्होंने मुझे लिखित जवाब भेज दिया है। परन्तु मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि इस पर्चे के लीक होने से, जो बच्चे पूरी तैयारी करके टेस्ट के लिए जाते हैं, उन पर इस तरह की चीजें आने पर बहुत प्रेशर पड़ता है। वे बच्चे, जो पूरी तैयारी करके जाते हैं, अचानक ऐसी खबर सुनकर कि पर्चा लीक हो गया है, उन पर बहुत प्रेशर पड़ता है। सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि फयूचर में पर्चे लीक न हों, इसके लिए क्या मंत्री जी ने कोई सीरियस कदम उठाए हैं या नहीं?

†**شری ابو عاصم اعظمی :** سر، میں منتری جی کا دھنیواد کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ انہوں نے مجھے لکھت جواب بھیج دیا ہے۔ لیکن میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس پرچے کے لیک ہونے سے، جو بچے پوری تیاری کر کے ٹسٹ کے لئے جاتے ہیں، ان پر اس طرح کی چیزیں آنے پر بہت پریشر پڑتا ہے۔ وہ بچے، جو پوری تیاری کر کے جاتے ہیں، اچانک ایسی خبر سن کر کہ پرچہ لیک ہو گیا ہے، ان پر بہت پریشر پڑتا ہے۔ سر، میں منتری جی سے جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ فیوچر میں پرچے لیک نہ ہوں، اس کے لئے کیا منتری جی نے کوئی سیریس قدم اٹھائے ہیں یا نہیں؟

श्री सभापति: बहुत उठाए हैं।

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I very much share the concern of the hon. Member. This is a very strange thing which has happened. The Railways have been conducting examinations all these years through the Railway Recruitment Boards. Such a leakage was not reported earlier. I would

†[ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

like to say that about 1,12,985 candidates who had to write the examination on 26.2.2006 will definitely get affected. I quite agree with that. We have already lodged a complaint as to how this happened. The police are investigating into what exactly happened. Once we are able to know whoever is responsible for this, we will, definitely, plug the loopholes, and see that the system is made foolproof. A foolproof system is already available with us. The confidentiality is maintained from paper-setting, printing, transporting, distribution, conduct of examination till the end. In fact, what happened in this particular case is this. In fact, it was Hindi version of English paper. Normally, the question paper is set in English. It was the Hindi version of the paper through which it has leaked. Through the police inquiry, we are trying to find out the reason for this. Once the police report comes, we will, definitely, take action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you are satisfied with the reply.

श्री अबू आसिम आजमी: सर, मेरा छोटा-सा सप्लिमेंटरी क्वैश्चन और है। सर, यह रेलवे की ग्रुप 'डी' की जो भर्ती थी, यह नौकरी समाज के ऐसे गरीब लोगों के लिए थी, जिनके पास नौकरी नहीं है और जिनके पास खाने को नहीं है। ये लोग पूरी तैयारी के साथ एग्जाम में गए। वहां जाने के बाद इनको मालूम हुआ कि पर्चा लीक हो गया है। अब उनको दोबारा जाना पड़ेगा और उनको फिर आने-जाने का, वहां रहने का, खाने का बन्दोबस्त करना पड़ेगा। ये गरीब लोग ग्रुप 'डी' में भर्ती के लिए दोबारा जाएंगे, तो उन पर बहुत बड़ा बोझ पड़ेगा। सर, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार उनकी मदद के लिए कुछ सोच रही है? मैं इनसे दूसरी बात यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि इसमें कितनी वैकेंसीज थीं और कितनी भर्ती करनी थी?

شری ابوعاصم اعظمی: سر، میرا ایک چھوٹا سا سپلمنٹری کوئشچن ہے۔ سر، یہ ریلوے کی گروپ ''ڈی'' کی جو بھرتی تھی، یہ نوکری سماج کے ایسے غریب لوگوں کے لئے تھی، جن کے پاس نوکری نہیں ہے اور جن کے پاس کھانے کو نہیں ہے۔ یہ لوگ پوری تیاری کے ساتھ ایگزام میں گئے۔ وہاں جانے کے بعد ان کو معلوم ہوا کہ پرچہ لیک ہوگیا ہے۔ اب ان کو دوبارہ جانا پڑیگا اور ان کو پھر آنے جانے کا، وہاں رہنے کا، کھانے کا بندوبست کرنا پڑیگا۔ یہ غریب لوگ گروپ ''ڈی'' میں بھرتی کے لئے دوبارہ جائیں گے، تو ان پر بہت بڑا بوجھ پڑیگا۔ سر، میں منتری جی سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا سرکار ان کی مدد کے لئے کچھ سوچ رہی ہے؟ میں ان سے دوسری بات یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اس میں کتنی ویکنسیز تھیں اور کتنی بھرتی

†[ ]Transliteration in Urdu Script.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, for this particular examination, there were 8,366 vacancies. For that, we had received 19 lakh-odd applications.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How may applications?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, we had received 19,22,000 applications. Out of that, 15,10,000 applicants were found eligible. We had divided it into three phases. For the first phase, we have already conducted the examination on 12.2.2006, in which 97,588 candidates appeared; out of 5,12,000 applicants to whom we had sent call letters. For the second phase of examination on 26.2.2006, this episode happened in this phase, we had sent call letters to 4.85 lakh candidates; out of which, 1,12,985 candidates appeared. I really share the concern of hon. Member that those candidates were poor people who had come all the way to prepare and write the examination. But, this was an exceptional situation in which we cannot help. In fact, this is just like a man-made disaster. The moment we find exactly what happened and where this has gone wrong, Sir, we would set it right.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Outcome Budget (2006-07) and Performance Budget (2005-06) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(i) Outcome Budget for the year 2006-07 of the Department of Food and Public Distribution in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.3948/06]

(ii) Performance Budget for the year 2005-06 of the Department of Food and Public Distribution in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T.3950/06]

Notification of the Ministry of Railways

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry